

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01  
ICA-11 /091 W  
-----055383 151301Z /72

R 141640Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7135  
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09406

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PDIP, IN, UK  
SUBJECT: INDIAN PM DESAI'S VISIT TO LONDON

REF: NEW DELHI 8867, 8943, 8980

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF DESAI'S VISIT TO THE US, WHITE  
IN FCO TOLD US, FCO QUICKLY INSTRUCTED BRITISH EMBASSY  
IN WASHINGTON TO BRIEF THE DEPARTMENT AND NSC ON WHAT  
HAPPENED DURING DESAI'S VISIT TO LONDON LAST WEEK.  
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WHITE TOLD US ON JUNE 13, HE  
ASSUMES THERE IS NO NEED TO DUPLICATE THIS REPORTING  
THROUGH EMBASSY LONDON CHANNELS. WHITE COMMENTED THAT  
"WHILE THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE VISIT WERE GOOD, THE  
SUBSTANCE WAS NOT VERY SOLID." FOR EXAMPLE, SALE OF  
JAGUAR AIRCRAFT WAS NOT RAISED IN LONDON BY EITHER SIDE.  
WHILE RACE RELATIONS WERE DISCUSSED BRIEFLY, WHITE SAID,  
IMMIGRATION OF INDIANS IN THE UK WAS NOT RAISED IN  
DESAI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

2. EMBOFF NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH PRESS  
(ESPECIALLY SUNDAY TELEGRAPH OF JUNE 11), DESAI HAD A  
"SHARP EXCHANGE" WITH OPPOSITION LEADER MRS. THATCHER  
WHEN HE MET WITH HER AND TOLD HER THAT THE CONSERVATIVE  
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PARTY WAS "COMMITTING POLITICAL SUICIDE" BY ITS POLICY  
OF OPPOSING INDIAN IMMIGRATION. TELEGRAPH QUOTED "AN  
ASIAN DIPLOMAT" AS REPORTING THAT DESAI POINTED OUT  
TO MRS. THATCHER THAT INDIA HAD GIVEN SANCTUARY TO  
BRITISH ASIANS AND DESAI CONTENTED THAT IMMIGRATION  
CONTROL BY BRITAIN SHOULD NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST  
ONE SECTION OF THE GLOBE. WHITE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN

UNAWARE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DESAI-THATCHER MEETING  
OR THE PRESS REPORTS ON THE EXCHANGE ON IMMIGRATION,  
AND HENCE HAD NO COMMENT ON THIS MEETING.

3. WE ASSUME THE FCO REPORT ON THE VISIT IS AVAILABLE  
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI FROM THE BRITISH THERE. NEWS  
CLIPPINGS POUCHED.

4. WHITE REMINDED US THAT THE BRITISH ARE INTERESTED  
TO HEAR WHAT WENT ON DURING THE DESAI VISIT TO WASH-  
INGTON.

5. FOR NEW DELHI: APPRECIATE REFTELS.

BREWSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978LONDON09406  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 NEW DELHI 8867  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDIAN PM DESAI'S VISIT TO LONDON  
**TAGS:** PDIP, OVIP, IN, UK, (DESAI, MORARJI)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014